United Nations DP/FPA/2011/7

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

Distr.: General
6 April 2011

Original: English

Annual session 2011
6 to 17 June 2011, New York
Item 15 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for Guinea and the second one-year extension of the country programme for South Africa. It also contains information on the two-year extension of the country programme for Madagascar.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for second one-year extensions or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for Guinea, as indicated in table 1; approve the second one-year extension for South Africa, as indicated in table 2; and approve the two-year extension for Madagascar, as indicated in table 3.

11-29033 (E) 130411

Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Guinea	2007-2011	2012	The country programme, along with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, 2007-2011, was initially aligned to the 2008-2010 poverty reduction strategy paper. Following the 2010 presidential elections, the new Government opted for the development of an interim poverty reduction strategy paper for an 18-month period, to coincide with the end of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. In order for the United Nations system organizations to be aligned with national policies and strategies, the United Nations and the Government agreed to extend the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period from January to December 2012.	The political situation in Guinea during the past four years was marked by socio-political instability. Major events included repeated strikes during 2006-2008 by workers' unions, followed by the army seizing power after the death of the President in December 2008. The transition phase with those in power lasted until December 2010, and ended after free and fair elections took place on 7 November 2010, with the support of the international community. The newly elected President was sworn in on 21 December 2010. Since then, the political situation of the country has been more stable.	The one-year extension of the country programme will focus on: (a) improving the quality of services in the areas of reproductive health and gender equality, with particular reference to the maternal mortality road map, focusing on emergency obstetrical care and strengthening the capacity of health-care workers to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV services; (b) strengthening the technical capacity in gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; and (c) supporting the analysis and dissemination of the 2011 census data.

Table 2. Second one-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
South Africa	2007-2010 2011 (first one-year extension)	2012	The second one-year extension of the country programme will permit all United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies to begin their new country programmes at the same time. This will be in line with the extension of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to 2012, as approved by the Government of South Africa in November 2010. The United Nations country team is embarking on a dialogue with the Government of South Africa on the plan for the next UNDAF, in view of Vision 2014 of the Government, and the Millennium Development Goals.	South Africa held its fourth general election in April 2009. This ushered in a new administration that recently finalized its medium-term strategic framework, to 2014. The extension of the country programme will enable the Government and the United Nations system to take into consideration the findings of the United Nations Evaluation Group, the joint United Nations and Government of South Africa evaluation, and to jointly define the implications for continued partnerships, in particular for the UNDAF process.	The 2010 Football World Cup, which South Africa hosted, delayed the implementation of the 2010 country programme. Some programme interventions were deferred to 2011. The extension of the country programme provides the opportunity to strengthen support to: (a) the Ministry of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, to reinforce its technical capacity for gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; (b) further implement the findings of the health-sector review, and strengthen the capacity of health-care workers to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV services; (c) population units and Statistics South Africa to strengthen the capacity to integrate population issues into development planning; and (d) institutions of higher learning to conduct training in population and development issues.

Table 3. Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Madagascar	2008-2011	2012-2013	Following the change of Government on 17 March 2009, the United Nations organizations working in Madagascar, together with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, decided that only programmes that were of direct benefit to the economic and social situation of the population and contributed to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals would be maintained. The political situation resulted in the delay of the roll-out of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), originally foreseen for 2010, first by one year and then by another year. In December 2010, the United Nations country team decided that 2012 would be the roll-out year for a new UNDAF, beginning in 2014.	As of January 2011, the country is still governed by the High Authority of Transition. The Southern African Development Community, representing the International Contact Group, continues its efforts to achieve an inclusive and consensual transition that can lead to fair and transparent elections. The transitional Government has postponed planned municipal and parliamentary elections; only a presidential election is foreseen for 4 May 2011, but has not yet been confirmed. The transitional Government has not formulated a new national development document.	The United Nations country team has updated the UNDAF and defined the strategic vision. The updated UNDAF has not significantly affected the outputs of the sixth UNFPA country programme for Madagascar. The main activities of the country programme are related to increased utilization of and access to basic social services, including reproductive health. This will be achieved through new and enlarged partnerships in maternal health, reproductive health commodity security, information and services for adolescent reproductive health, and the prevention and treatment of fistula. Other principal activities relate to the increased production and use of population data, especially regarding the census planned for 2011, and increased efforts to promote women and protect them from gender-based violence.